

Minutes of June 10, 2013

CITY OF LEON VALLEY PARK COMMISSION

1. Call to Order and Determination via Roll Call if Quorum is Present: The June 10, 2013 meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 by Chairman Bert Thomas in the City Chambers at the Leon Valley City Hall

Present: Bert Thomas, Bill Cooper, Susan Fraser, Tom Fraser, Scott Baird.

Absent/Excused: Benay Cacciatore, Rachel Felkner, Linda Tarin and John Stanley.

City Staff Present: Byron Vick

City Council Liaison: Jack Dean

2. Review and consideration for Approval of the May 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Motion for approval of the May minutes, as amended, was made by Bill Cooper, seconded by Susan Fraser, and unanimously approved by the commissioners.

3. Citizens to be heard: None.

4. Reports:

A. Park Rental Applications: Bill Cooper asked why we need to focus on these. Tom Fraser, Scott Baird and Susan Fraser all wondered the same thing. Maybe this info simply needs to be available online in password protected section of city website, on a page dedicated to LVPC business?

5. Discuss:

A. Flood Damage and Cleanup of Raymond Rimkus Park. Public Works did an outstanding job cleaning up the park after all the flooding. We all commend them for their hard work. Fire Department personnel spent time at the park watching out for the safety of our citizens. More has to be done to educate people of the dangers of high water and the contamination it brings. Two teenage boys were seen swimming in the flood waters, near the bend in the creek. Do people know where their children are? Adults tried to have picnics near the flood waters. People removed barricades from the parking lot to gain entry to the park before the cleanup was finished. Young parents with small children were on the washed out playground and others were on the soccer fields.

B. Repairs Needed to Picnic Tables and Benches Throughout the Park. Most of our park benches and picnic tables are in need of repair or replacement. If we rebuild them, we must use a good substitute for wood if we want them to last. The City is considering providing funds to repair or replace some of these items.

Byron suggested using some hardi plank type material instead of wood for new benches and tables and for repairing old ones.

C. Forming a Volunteer Service (Friends of the Park) similar to the one at McAllister Park.

Scott Baird (as a Friend of McAllister Park) suggested that we discuss permitting/organizing a similar volunteer group for Raymond Rimkus Park to help with upkeep and improvement projects. He pointed out that since everyone was a volunteer, legal issues were not a concern. (i.e. On workdays, SA Runners provide food, bicycle clubs paint or do other work, etc.) Friends of McAllister Park formed after negotiations with the City of San Antonio.

Susan Fraser thought this was an idea worth exploring, especially considering that some citizens who responded to the last survey offered to help out if we needed them.

D. Citizen Survey and Park Master Plan: Bert Thomas provided copies of the last Park Survey, and items previous park commissioner wanted to have completed in our park. Byron Vick will provide all of us copies of the proposed 2010 Park Master Plan. With these items we work to finalize a new plan.

We discussed putting all the latest survey information online on a page on the city website dedicated to Raymond Rimkus Park, for ongoing (instant and free!) input from citizens instead of sending only certain questions out by snail mail every five years or so at great financial expense and lots of busy work for Byron Vick and staff.

We also talked about including the survey results with an updated Master Plan.

6. Commissioners' and Staff's Comments:

A. Group: Establishing guidelines for conducting Park Commission Meetings. Scott Baird asked Councilman Dean to attend this meeting. When asked how agenda items get on city council agenda, he told us it works like this: If two or more members request an item be placed on the agenda, it must be placed on that month's agenda. Items not covered on a particular Agenda, must be continued the next scheduled meeting.

We all liked this idea and agreed we'd like to adopt it for LVPC, as well. Further discussion included us coming up with other rules and guidelines for park commission meetings since it appears that we've never had any. This lack of rules has been a source of misunderstanding and frustration resulting in little progress on any real issues.

We agreed to place this on next month's agenda. Bill Cooper made a motion and Susan Fraser seconded it.

We discussed possible new methods for recording the meeting minutes. In the absence of our secretary for the second month in a row, we agreed to try distributing the duties among all commission members in attendance at each meeting. This takes the full load off of one person who can't really participate when they are busy recording notes. And then has to compile them on their own time. (It's a big job!) Other ideas might be to make an audio recording or even ask someone else who's not on the commission to record the notes?

Wilderness Area - We visited this topic briefly. Councilman Dean reminded us about the currently unsettled legal status and recommended that we follow it; and we agreed that this is not an issue LVPC needs to focus on at this time.

Board Member on Historical Society - Scott Baird reminded us that we still have not discussed this request. Bert said that we had not received any formal request. Tom Fraser, Scott Baird and Susan Fraser all agreed that Darby Riley had indeed included the invitation/request to us verbally in his presentation at our April 2013 meeting.

Bert pointed out that one voting member from LVPC would always be outnumbered and didn't see a reason for a token member on the Historical Society board. Scott said that he's attended several of their meetings and reported that they are divided among themselves. He believes we ought to consider this request. Tom and Susan agreed.

Miscellaneous Issues We discussed issues that have come up in the park recently, such as whether church services or commercial activities are appropriate and should be permitted. Unanimous view was that NO, these activities do NOT belong at Raymond Rimkus Park. Byron Vick has been disallowing them so far and we agreed.

We briefly mentioned the squeaky swings on the playground. (Yes, they DO need regular oiling because they are very loud!)

We discussed the areas where sprinkler system is already in place for watering trees that are gone. We need to plant more trees in those spaces.

B. Scott Baird:

C. Bill Cooper:

D. Susan Fraser: I really appreciate Councilman Dean attending our meeting and thank him for his valuable input and ideas. I hope he comes to all of our meetings. We accomplished a great deal toward getting "unstuck" with his help and I believe we'll be able to move forward from now on. He cited his many years of experience on city council and his knowledge and presence really boosted morale. Best, most productive meeting in a long time!

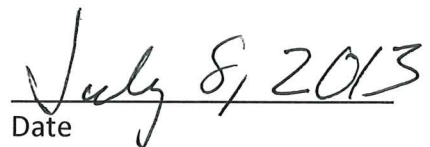
E. Tom Fraser:

7. Announcements: The next City of Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting will be held in the Leon Valley City Council Chambers, at the Leon Valley City Hall on July 8, 2013.

8. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Cooper, seconded by Tom Fraser, and unanimously approved by the commissioners. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.



Bert H. Thomas, Chairman
Leon Valley Park Commission


Date